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Typed or Printed Name Martha Cisneros

Signature

Date

February 6, 2003



**AMENDMENT UNDER
37 C.F.R. §1.111**

Address to:
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Attorney Docket No.	GUID-003CONS
Confirmation No.	1695
First Named Inventor	TAYLOR, CHARLES S.
Application Number	10/020,451
Filing Date	December 14, 2001
Group Art Unit	3736
Examiner Name	NASSER, ROBERT L.
Title: "SURGICAL DEVICES FOR IMPOSING A NEGATIVE PRESSURE TO STABILIZE CARDIAC TISSUE DURING SURGERY"	

Sir:

This amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated November 4, 2002 for which a three-month period for response was given making this response due on or before February 4, 2003. A One-Month extension of time is requested herewith making the due date to respond on or before March 4, 2003. In view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks put forth below, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

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AMENDMENTS
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IN THE CLAIMS

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Please amend claim 15 as follows:

15. (Amended) An instrument adapted to fix a portion of a beating part by applying a negative pressure thereto, said instrument comprising:

a member adapted to contact the portion of the beating heart, said member having at least one suction port adapted to deliver the negative pressure to the portion of the beating heart, at least one suction line for connecting said at least one suction port to a source of negative pressure, and a suction aperture interconnecting each said at least one suction port with said at least one suction line, wherein each said suction aperture has a cross-sectional area substantially smaller than a cross-sectional area of said suction port with which it connects.